

REMARKS

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Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present amendment is intended to place the application in condition for allowance and is believed to overcome all of the rejections made by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claims 9 and 21 to more properly claim the present invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 9 – 34 are presented for examination.

In response to the Office Action, kindly consider the following remarks:

In Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, claims 9 – 11, 13, 16, 21 – 25, 27 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 (“Smith”).

In Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 20 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 and Brown, U.S. Patent No. 6,173,284 (“Brown”).

In Paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 14, 15, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 and Sparks et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,838 (“Sparks”).

In Paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 17 – 19 and 31 – 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 and Notani et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,533 (“Notani”).

In Paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 12 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 and Berteig, U.S. Patent No. 6,348,936 (“Berteig”).

Distinctions between Claimed Invention and U.S. Patent No. 6,222,537 to Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,173,284 to Brown, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,838 to Sparks, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,533 to Notani et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,348,936 to Berteig

The present invention describes a method and system for rendering user interfaces for a component based application program, through which components, such as document viewers, can specify requirements for their user interfaces (original specification / page 9, lines 9 – 18). A particular advantage of the present invention is that it enables automatic changes of a user interface to accommodate changes of application program components, without the need to

recompile or reinstall the application program (original specification / page 1, lines 23 and 24; page 3, lines 26 – 29).

For example, a document viewer component for a zoom workflow can specify that its user interface requires a text box to display a current zoom percentage, a slider to selected a desired zoom percentage, and a default zoom value (original specification / page 9, lines 4 – 7). Using the present invention, a renderer automatically generates such a user interface using available user interface components.

Smith describes a user interface builder that enables a designer to associate property attributes including images, animation, sound clips and other media with states of a user interface control (Smith / col. 2, lines 43 – 35, 54, 55 and 60 – 62; col. 3, lines 55 – 59; col. 7, lines 16 – 21). Smith provides the user interface designer with pre-defined functional behavior so that the designer is only required to do design work, and is not saddled with programming interface control functions (Smith, col. 1, line 63 – col. 2, line 15; col. 3, lines 14 – 19 and lines 59 – 72; col. 4, lines 25 – 33). Specifically, Smith describes a tool that provides a user with predefined user interface controls, each with predefined functional behavior, and enables the user to modify visual and other aspects of the controls' appearances (Smith / col. 4, lines 25 – 30).

As such, Smith separates the behavioral logic of user interface controls from their visual representation (Smith / col. 3, lines 15 – 19; col. 7, lines 53 – 55). For example, using Smith, a button control which is set to trigger turning to a new page of text when pressed may have associated with its hovering state an animation sequence comprising images of a book which give the appearance of turning pages when the images are cycled through (Smith / col. 4, lines 12 – 18).

Brown describes a method and system for automatically monitoring police records.

Sparks describes a method and system for delivering audio and data files over voice and data networks.

Notani describes an environment for supply chain analysis and optimization that supports multiple engines and products spanning multiple domains. Notani uses a visual information broker that uses dynamically loaded adapters that interface to particular sources of information.

Berteig describes a user interface slider control wit an information display area within the slider. As the slider is moved, information identifying the data corresponding to the current position of the slider is displayed in the slider's information display area.

A fundamental difference between Smith and the present invention is that whereas Smith describes a tool for associating property attributes with a given user interface control, the present

invention describes components, such as document viewers, of a component-based application program that specify the types of user interface controls their user interfaces require. Thus whereas Smith concerns design of individual user interface controls, the present invention concerns automatic generation of a user interface with specified types of user interface controls, in order to accommodate components that are added to an application program, without the need to recompile or reinstall the application program.

The rejection of claims 9 - 34 will now be dealt with specifically.

As to amended independent claim 9, applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 9 of:

“a user interface requirements specification referencing at least one of said plurality of user interface components” and

“a renderer to render a graphical user interface for the application program according to said document viewer’s user interface requirements specification, when said document viewer is added as a component of the application program, without the need to recompile or reinstall the application program”

are neither shown nor suggested in Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani or Berteig, taken individually or in combination.

Because claims 10 - 20 depend from claim 9 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 - 20 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani, Berteig or a combination of Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani and Berteig.

Accordingly claims 9 - 20 are deemed to be allowable.

Similarly, as to amended independent claim 21, applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 21 of:

“providing a user interface requirements specification for a document viewer, the document viewer ... referencing at least one of a plurality of user interface components”, and

“rendering a graphical user interface for the application program according to the document viewer’s user interface requirements specification, when the document viewer is added as a component of the application program, without recompiling or reinstalling the application program”

are neither shown nor suggested in Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani or Berteig, taken individually or in combination.

Because new claims 22 - 34 depend from claim 21 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 22 - 34 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by

Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani, Berteig or a combination of Smith, Brown, Sparks, Notani and Berteig.

Accordingly claims 21 - 34 are deemed to be allowable.

Support for Amended Claims in Original Specification

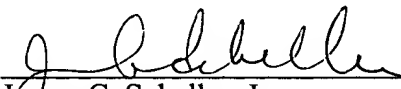
The ability to render a user interface within a component-based application program as components are added or changed, without recompiling or reinstalling the application program, is described in the original specification at page 1, lines 23 and 24; and page 3, lines 26 - 29.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/26, 2002


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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Please amend claims 9 and 21 as follows:

9. (Amended) A system for providing a graphical user interface for a component based application program, comprising:

a plurality of user interface components;

a document viewer [that is a component of an application program, said document viewer being used to] for displaying a document or [to] modifying a document within [the] a component based application program[;], the document viewer having a user interface requirements specification referencing at least one of said plurality of user interface components; and

a renderer to render a graphical user interface for the [document viewer] application program according to [the] said document viewer's user interface requirements specification, when said document viewer is added as a component of the application program, without the need to recompile or reinstall the application program.

21. (Amended) A method for providing a graphical user interface for a component based application program, comprising:

providing a user interface requirements specification for a document viewer, the document viewer [being a component of an application program and] being used to display a document or to modify a document within [the] a component based application program, and the user interface requirements specification referencing at least one of a plurality of user interface components; and

rendering a graphical user interface for the [document viewer] application program according to the document viewer's user interface requirements specification, when the document viewer is added as a component of the application program, without recompiling or reinstalling the application program.